

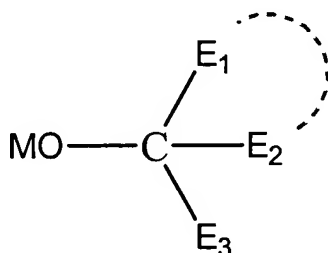
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A metal alkoxide having the formula:



wherein M is a metal;

E₁ and E₂ and the carbon atom to which they are attached **comprise define** a carbocyclic or heterocyclic skeleton containing about 6 to 20 ring atoms, the hetero atoms being oxygen; and

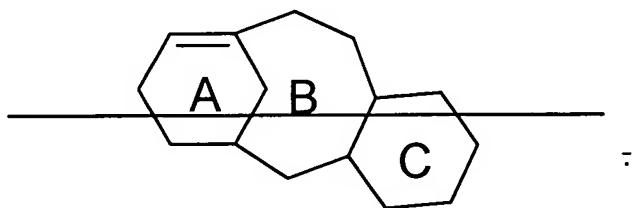
E₃ is hydrogen or hydrocarbon.

2. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen.
3. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is a Group IA, IIA or transition metal.
4. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is lithium, magnesium, sodium, potassium or titanium.
5. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen and M is a Group IA, IIA or transition metal.

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6. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E_3 is hydrogen and M is lithium, magnesium, sodium, potassium or titanium.

7. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E_1 and E_2 and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise a tricyclic taxane nucleus, and E_3 is hydrogen. the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B and C of structure



8. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E_1 and E_2 and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise a tetracyclic taxane nucleus, and E_3 is hydrogen. the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B, C and the oxetane ring of structure

